REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application and claims in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3 and 7-17 are pending in the present application.

Claims 2 and 4-6 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Claims 1, 3 and 7-17 were rejected.

No amendments to the claims are included in this response.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 7-11 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,185,530 to Ittycheriah et al. ("Ittycheriah") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,809,471 to Brodsky ("Brodsky"). Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Ittycheriah in view of Brodsky and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,393,348 to Besling et al. ("Besling"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Ittycheriah describes a method of comparing a word, which can uttered by a user into a microphone and received by a speech utterance pre-processor, to an existing vocabulary of words to determine potential acoustic confusion. *See* Ittycheriah, Abstract and col. 4, lines 16-25.

Brodsky describes a method of creating a small dictionary of items or keywords contained in closed caption text of a TV signal for a recently viewed program. *See* Brodsky, Abstract.

Besling describes a system for recognizing a pattern by selecting a recognition model that is suited to a particular user of the system. *See* Besling, col. 4, lines 15-40. Where the input pattern is speech representative data, the user speaks predetermined words or sentences

that are used as acoustic training data for recognition by a plurality of acoustic models such that the acoustic model providing the best recognition result can be used. *See* Besling, col. 7, line 66 – col. 8, line 27.

Independent claim 1 of the present application recites a method of training a speech recognition system by "speaking the vocabulary data to the speech recognition system in an automated manner using the audio module so as to expand the vocabulary database" and "providing the audio module with vocabulary data in a streaming mode from a telecommunication network." Similarly, independent claim 16 recites a "computer-based audio module including a speech synthesis unit configured to receive speech data in a streaming mode from a telecommunication network, wherein the speech data is spoken into the vocabulary database using the audio module so as to expand the vocabulary database." It is respectfully submitted that any combination of Ittycheriah, Brodsky and Besling, would fail to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of claims 1 and 16.

In contrast, Ittycheriah merely describes providing a speech utterance pre-processor with words spoken by a particular user to determine potential acoustic confusion. Thus, as acknowledged in the Office Action, Ittycheriah fails to disclose providing an audio module with vocabulary data in a streaming mode from a telecommunication network as required by claims 1 and 16 (see Detailed Action, Page 3). While Brodsky is relied on as disclosing this feature with reference to the Abstract and col. 3, line 52 – col. 4, line 66 thereof (see Detailed Action, Page 4), it is respectfully submitted that Brodsky does not, in fact, disclose or suggest this feature. While Brodsky describes in these cited passages that the items or keywords may be provided to a buffer vocabulary 104 in real time, Brodsky also describes that the buffer vocabulary 104 merely temporarily stores the items and keywords until the buffer is full. *See* Brodsky, col. 4, lines 49-57. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the buffer vocabulary of Brodsky is not an audio module, which as required by claims 1 and 16, is also used in the training of the speech recognition system to speak the vocabulary or speech data to the vocabulary database of the speech recognition system. In determining the differences between the prior art and the claims, the question under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is not whether the differences themselves would have been obvious, but whether the claimed invention as a whole would have been obvious. See M.P.E.P., section 2141.02. Accordingly, it is

respectfully submitted that Brodsky fails to disclose or suggest providing *an audio module* with vocabulary data in a streaming mode from a telecommunication network as required by the audio module as recited in claims 1 and 16. Besling merely describes a method of recognizing a pattern in which a particular user speaks predetermined words or phrases, and therefore also fails to disclose or suggest providing an audio module vocabulary data in a streaming mode from a telecommunication network as required by claims 1 and 16.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that Ittycheriah, Brodsky and Besling each also fail to disclose or suggest speaking the vocabulary data to the speech recognition system in an automated manner using the audio module so as to expand the vocabulary database. In response to this argument presented earlier with respect to Ittycheriah, the Office asserted that "automating requires routine skill in the art and as the court held broadly providing an automatic or mechanical means to replace a manual activity which accomplished the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art." *See* Office Action of December 22, 2010, Section 2, Page 2. However, as previously presented in the Response to the Office Action of December 22, 2010 filed on February 22, 2011, it is respectfully submitted that this feature is not obvious in view of Ittycheriah, or any of the other cited references, and does not merely involve routine skill in the art.

In addition to being laborious and time-consuming, having a particular user provide speech data through speaking into a microphone or the like as taught by Ittycheriah would merely provide acoustic training data that is based on the voice pattern of the particular user, which could differ greatly from the voice pattern of another person. *See* paragraph [0015] of the original specification. Thus, the data used to train the voice recognition system will not match that of the person who will operate the system later. *See* paragraph [0015] of the original specification. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that automating a process where a particular speaker provides speech data through a microphone as described in Ittycheriah, would not operate to provide different voice patterns, resulting insufficient training of a voice recognition system. In Brodsky, the items or keywords are taken from closed caption text and input to the buffer vocabulary in text format, and therefore are not spoken using an audio module as required by claims 1 and 16. *See* Brodsky, FIG. 1, Abstract

and col. 4, lines 23 and 24.   It is respectfully submitted that Besling fails to correct these deficiencies of Ittycheriah and Brodsky.

Because Ittycheriah, Brodsky and Besling fail to disclose or suggest at least the above-recited features of independent claims 1 and 16, it is respectfully submitted that any combination of Ittycheriah, Brodsky, and Besling, to the extent proper, could not render those claims or any of their respective dependent claims 3, 7-15 and 17 obvious.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Ittycheriah with Brodsky is not proper. According to the Office Action, it would have been obvious to modify Ittycheriah's method as described by Brodsky to obtain and store expanded information for items and keywords. *See* Detailed Action, Page 4. However, it is unclear how the method of Ittycheriah would utilize such items or keywords, or how the method would be modified to do so, or what expanded information would be provided by the simple text, temporarily stored items and keywords of Brodsky.

As discussed above, Brodsky merely describes maintaining a small, continuously changing dictionary of keywords entered in text format. However, such keywords would not be useful in the method of Ittycheriah which attempts to determine potential acoustic confusion from a word spoken by a user in comparison to a stored vocabulary of words. *See* Ittycheriah, Abstract.   In fact, it would be impossible to determine potential acoustic confusion from a word input in text, and therefore the proposed modification of Ittycheriah would render Ittycheriah inoperable for its intended purpose.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is therefore respectively requested.
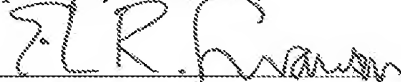
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any unpaid fees deemed required in connection with this submission, including any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 12-1216.

Dated: June 10, 2011   Respectfully submitted,

By _____
Erik R. Swanson
    Registration No.: 40,833
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6731
(312) 616-5600 (Telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (Fax)
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant